

## about the artist

Jean Howat Berry has been a drama educator for more than 20 years. She currently works as a teaching artist through The Muse Machine in Dayton and Ohio Arts Council's residency program. Jean grew up in Springfield, graduating with her bachelor's degree in theater and voice from Wittenberg University and later earning her master's degree from The Ohio State University in drama education. As an artist, Jean looks at each new project as a gift, a challenge and an opportunity for building community and celebrating diversity.

## a note from the artist

Welcome to our theatre and mask process performance! After four weeks in residency here in Price Hill, instruction has been given, gifts have been identified and sharpened, masks have been made and risks have been taken. These young people have made miraculous things happen every day! Most importantly, they have built a community of artists, learning from each other as well as from the processes. This group represents a sort of microcosm of how all neighborhoods can be: creative, supportive and tolerant.

The young people you see this evening are the core group that met all morning, four times a week for a month. Additionally, weekly groups from recreation centers around Cincinnati met in the afternoons, experiencing, on a smaller scale, theatre in mask. While they are not physically on stage tonight, their faces are – in the form of masks. Please walk around and look at all the masks during your time here.

It has been a total joy working with the insightful, imaginative children of Price Hill and surrounding communities during this month. Thank you for sharing them. As is always the case, they taught us as much or more than we (hopefully) passed on to them. Join me in celebrating the diversity of these young people, the talents they bring to the world and the amazing modeling they offer us.

"I learned today about leadership and working together."

### cast list

Loretta Blaut.....as Birchy ZaZann (Monk)  
Maria Bruce .....as Jacques Shenzao  
Marquise Cleveland.....as Cezazone Foway  
Ali Dudley .....as Brandy Uggles  
De'stiny Mathis.....as Stevie Hurlie  
Krishawnta Mullins.....as Billie Jane  
Carmen Sunderman.....as Dr. Fulay  
Jamyka Thompson.....as Snarky  
LaMaya Winslow .....as Rita Girdler  
Ahlai Yisreal.....as Ms. Monroe  
Atarah Yisreal .....as Jaden  
Ben-Daniel Yisreal.....as Razhan, the Boxer  
Hazaiah Yisreal.....as Wendy Wu



## a mask trio

Part 1

### THE NEUTRAL ZONE

This piece is based on a mask exercise that helps actors become "blank canvases" on/in which a new character will be created. The goal is to perform function only, not personality. Note the physical conformity, the simple movements and the effort to be plain, colorless, and blank.

*LESSON: There are universal truths we all share.*

Part 2

### THE TURNIP

This European folktale offers a great opportunity for physical acting and improvisation, two skills we worked on this month. This ensemble has rehearsed the piece numerous times; however, the language and actions are still, to some extent, made up in the moment. Each individual actor designed the characters: name, background and mask. The original story involves a family unit working together. We've expanded that to be a community.

*LESSON: We can accomplish great things when we work together.*

Part 3

### THE FLYING HEAD

This Iroquois tale was chosen by the group to highlight one large character with one large mask. Our teen leaders, Erin and Ian, designed the armature (the working skeleton); all the youth worked diligently to complete this parade mask. This story was learned through memorizing a script. Each character has specific lines. Each movement has been assigned. This is a more traditional theatre process.

*LESSON: Stand up and be strong for your community. Help get rid of destructive forces.*

*Mask materials:*

Plaster, glue mixtures, tissue paper, craft paper, cheesecloth, buckram, fabrics, tape, chicken wire, paint, lacquer, yarns/ threads and found objects.

"One good thing I have learned is that everyone has their own thing."



"I learned that it takes help from the community to complete tasks successfully, like in the Turnip story."

## ARTIST-IN-RESIDENCE PROGRAM INFORMATION

### Artist-in-Residence

Jean Howat Berry

### Assistant Directors / Teen Mentors

Erin Chapman

Ian Moore

### Special Assistance

Jessica Buterbaugh

Kelly Dietrich

### Special Thanks to

Mary Jo Bazeley

Greg Bruns

CitiCable

Covedale Theater

Dunham Advisory Board

Angela Klocke Forbes

Price Hill Civic Club

Price Hill Will

Price Hill Will / Art Community Action Team

Price Hill Recreation Center

St. William's Church / Father Umberg

Sunset Players

Women's Connection

### Thanks to our area restaurants

Diane's

Front Porch

Lee's Famous Recipe Chicken

Jersey Mike's Subs

Price Hill Chili

Primavista

Rally's

Skyline



This program is made possible by:



Invest in Neighborhoods / Merit Grants program  
Greater Cincinnati Foundation Summertime Kids grant

## Artist-In-Residence

closing performance program



Friday, August 4, 2006

**Participating Recreation Centers:** Corryville, Dunham, Madisonville, Millvale, Sayler Park, Pleasant Ridge, Price Hill, Winton Hills, Pinecrest Senior Center, Price Hill Seniors, Dunham Seniors, Lincoln Seniors